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64th Montana Legislature

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revised August 31, 2015

Air Ambulance Services Operating in Montana

Prepared by Pat Murdo, Research Analyst

Air ambulance services, their base where available, type, and membership information if available

| <i>Service Name</i> | <i>Base</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|---|---|--|---|
| Air Idaho Rescue | Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, Idaho Falls Serves W. Yellowstone | rotor | Notes that flight time from W. Yellowstone to Idaho Falls is 36 minutes. |
| A.L.E.R.T. I A.L.E.R.T. II | Kalispell | rotor and fixed wing | Based at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Local community board. Memberships: Individual \$59. Family \$100. Not necessarily reciprocal. |
| Billings Clinic Medflight | Billings | fixed wing | Part of hospital in terms of personnel. Aircraft contracted. |
| Eagle Med LLC Eagle Med LLC | Cody, WY Butte | Both rotor | Private, has memberships. |
| Help Flight St. Vincent Healthcare / Metro Aviation | Billings | rotor and fixed wing | St. V's Helicopter Emergency Lifesaving Program (HELP) serves Central and South Central Montana and Northern Wyoming. Care coordinated by a St. V's ER physician. Aircraft is contracted. |
| Life Flight Network | Butte Sandpoint, ID | rotor and fixed wing -- rotor | Not-for-profit. Largest in nation. Has reciprocal arrangements with Northwest Med-Star in Missoula and Air Idaho Rescue in Idaho Falls. Costs \$60 for basic members. |
| Mercy Flight Benefis Healthcare /Metro Aviation | Great Falls | rotor and fixed wing | Metro Aviation handles Benefis Mercy Flights. |
| Montana Medical Transport | Helena | fixed wing | Website not accessible 6/8 |

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| NW Med-Star / Metro Aviation | Missoula | rotor and fixed wing | Family membership \$59/year. No other Montana-based services listed as reciprocal. |
| REACH Air Medical Service LLC dba Summit | Helena Belgrade | rotor and fixed wing | Website says largest U.S. membership program. Does not appear to be reciprocal. FAQ says "If an AirMedCare Network Provider does not transport you, you will be responsible for payment..." \$65 annual family membership |
| Sanford Air Med | Dickinson. Aircraft based in Bismarck and Fargo, ND, Sioux Falls SD, Bemidji MN | fixed | Limited information found. |
| N.E. Montana Stat Air Ambulance Service | Glasgow. | fixed | Board includes members of N.E. Montana hospitals plus chief executive officers. 100% hospital owned. Not contracted |
| Valley Med Flight | Sidney, based in Grand Forks ND | fixed wing Applying for rotor. | Memberships. Family with insurance - \$50. Family without insurance \$80/1 year. |

Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems in the Department of Public Health and Human Services licenses air ambulances. Data from the agency indicate for 2015 the following types of services and staffing levels (ALS stands for Advanced Life Support):

| | <u>Hospital Based</u> | <u>Private</u> | <u>Basic/Authorized for ALS</u> | <u>ALS/Paramedic</u> |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Rotor Wing | 3 | 8 | | 11 |
| Fixed Wing | 5 | 6 | 1 | 10 |

Montana's rotor wing ambulance services affiliated with hospitals are:

Kalispell Alert
Billings St. Vincent
Great Falls Mercy Flight

Montana's fixed wing ambulance services affiliated with hospitals are:

Kalispell Alert
Billings Medflight
Billings St. Vincent
Great Falls Mercy Flight
Glasgow N.E. Montana